

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A printer adapted to be connected to a host device and to receive a data stream from said host device, said printer comprising:

B₁ a receiver for receiving the data stream including a first command type and a second command type to control the printer;

a first processing section responsive to commands of said first command type for executing a first process in accordance with any command of the first command type included in said data stream; and

a second processing section responsive to commands of said second command type for executing a second process in accordance with any command of the second command type included in said data stream, said second processing section executing said second process in preference to said first processing section performing said first process;

an indication device indicating either an enabled or a disabled state; and
a setting ~~means~~ element for setting the state indicated by said indication device;

wherein said second processing section is responsive to said indication device to perform said second process only if said indication device indicates said enabled state.

2. (Currently Amended) The printer according to claim 1, wherein said setting ~~means~~ element comprises a command detection ~~means~~ detector for detecting a predetermined command in the data stream received by said receiver.

3. (Currently Amended) The printer according to claim 2, wherein said indication device comprises a flag memory and said predetermined command includes a disabling command, said setting ~~means~~ element being responsive to said disabling command for setting a flag in said flag memory to said disabled state.

4. (Currently Amended) The printer according to claim 3, wherein said indication device comprises a flag memory and said predetermined command includes an enabling command, said setting ~~means~~element being responsive to said enabling command for setting a flag in said flag memory to said enabled state.

5. (Currently Amended) The printer according to claim 3, further comprising a counter for counting an elapsed time from the moment said receiver receives said predetermined command, wherein said setting ~~means~~element is responsive to said counter for setting the state indicated by said indication device to said enabled state when said elapsed time exceeds a predetermined time.

B 6. (Currently Amended) The printer according to claim 3, further comprising a counter for counting a length of a data stream received by said receiver from the moment said receiver receives said predetermined command, wherein said setting ~~means~~element is responsive to said counter for setting the state indicated by said indication device to said enabled state when said counter has counted a predetermined length.

7. (Original) The printer according to claim 6, wherein said disabling command comprises a parameter designating said predetermined length.

8. (Currently Amended) The printer according to claim 2, wherein said indication device comprises a flag memory and said predetermined command includes an enabling/disabling command, said setting ~~means~~element being responsive to said enabling/disabling command for setting one or more flags in said flag memory to said first/second state, said enabling/disabling command having at least two parameters, one parameter designating one or more commands of said second command type and another parameter for setting for each designated command a respective flag in said flag memory to said enabled or said disabled state.

9. (Currently Amended) The printer according to claim 2, wherein said predetermined command is of said first command type comprising a parameter in the form of a stream of non-coded data and said setting ~~means~~element is responsive to said command ~~detection~~meansdetector detecting said

predetermined command for setting the state of said indication device to said disabled state.

10. (Currently Amended) The printer according to claim 9, further comprising a data end detector for detecting the end of said stream of non-coded data, wherein said setting ~~means~~element is responsive to said data end detector for changing the state of said indication device to said enabled state.

11. (Currently Amended) The printer according to claim 10, further comprising:
a status information memory for storing status information indicative of reception of said predetermined command, and

B1 a status information ~~sending means~~transmitter

wherein said command ~~detection means~~detector is adapted to detecting a second predetermined command in the data stream received by said receiver, said status information ~~sending means~~transmitter being responsive to said command ~~detection means~~detector detecting said second predetermined command for sending said status information to said host device.

12. (Currently Amended) The printer according to claim 11, wherein at least said first and said second processing sections and said setting ~~means~~element are implemented by a program-controlled microprocessor.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling a printer connected to a host device comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving a data stream from said host device, the data stream including commands of a first command type and a second command type to control the ~~printing apparatus~~printer;

(b) detecting a predetermined command among in the data stream received in step (a) and disabling or enabling execution of one or more commands of said second command type in response to said predetermined command;

(c) carrying out a first process in response to a command of said first command type received in step (a); and

(d) carrying out a second process in response to a command of said second command type received in step (a), in preference to said step (c), only when execution of the command of said second command type is enabled in step (b).

14. (Original) The method according to claim 13, wherein step (b) comprises disabling execution of commands of said second command type in response to said predetermined command.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 13, wherein step (b) comprises enabling execution of commands of said second command type in response to said predetermined command.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 13, wherein said predetermined command is a command of said first command type comprising a parameter in the form of a stream of non-coded data and step (b) comprises disabling execution of commands of said second command type in response to said predetermined command.

17. (Original) The method according to claim 16, further comprising the steps of,
(e) detecting the end of said stream of image data, and
(f) enabling execution of commands of said second command type in response to the detection in step (e).

18. (Original) The method according to claim 16 further comprising the steps of:
(g) counting an elapsed time from the moment said predetermined command is detected in step (b), and
(h) enabling execution of commands of said second command type when the elapsed time counted in step (g) exceeds a predetermined time.

19. (Original) The method according to claim 16 further comprising the steps of:
(i) counting a length of a data stream received in step (a) from the moment said predetermined command is detected in step (b), and
(j) enabling execution of commands of said second command type when the length counted in step (i) exceeds a predetermined length.

20. (Original) The method according to claim 19, further comprising the steps of:

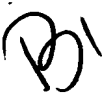
(k) storing status information indicating that said predetermined command was detected in step (b),

(l) detecting a second predetermined command in the data stream received in step (a), and

(m) sending said status information to the host device in response to the detection in step (l).

Claims 21-26 (cancelled)

27. (Original) A machine-readable storage medium storing a computer program which when executed in a printer, the printer being connected to a host device, performs a method as claimed in claim 20.

 Claims 28-31 (cancelled)

32. (New) A method of controlling transmission of bit-map data, comprising the steps of:

- (a) determining if a data stream to be transmitted includes bit-map data, if so, then
- (b) transmitting a real-time processing disable command, and then
- (c) transmitting the data stream including the bit-map data.

33. (New) The control method according to claim 32, further comprising the step of:

(d) when step (c) is completed, transmitting a real-time processing enable command.

34. (New) The control method according to claim 32, further comprising the step of:

(e) when a predetermined amount of time elapses, the predetermined amount of time starting from the time that the real-time processing disable command transmitted in step (b) is received, transmitting a real-time processing enable command.

35. (New) The control method according to claim 33, wherein the predetermined amount of time and elapse thereof is counted.

36. (New) The control method according to claim 33, wherein the method is carried out by a computer and a printer in communication with the printer, and wherein processing of real-time commands by the real-time processing enable and disable commands comprises processing a real-time command for sending an output pulse to a predetermined connector pin of the printer and a real-time command making the printer turn off.

37. (New) The control method according to claim 32, wherein the bit-map data includes image data or a font definition command.

38. (New) A system comprising a host computer and a printer in communication with the host computer, comprising:

B1 a detector for determining if a data stream to be transmitted from the host computer to the printer includes bit-map data,

a processor configured to transmit a real-time processing disable command from the computer to the printer, and then to transmit the data stream including the bit-map data to the printer, if and when the detector determines that the data stream includes bit-map data.

39. (New) The system according to claim 38, wherein the processor is further configured to transmit a real-time processing enable command when the data stream including the bit-map data has been received by the printer.